

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please cancel the abstract and insert therefore the following new Abstract:

ABSTRACT

A method for joining workpieces by welding with laser light, in which a plurality of workpieces are arranged between a lower pressure plate and a translucent upper pressure plate on a multiplicity of supporting segments movable in a vertical direction, whereby the workpieces are subsequently exposed through the upper pressure plate to a laser beam. The workpieces on the supporting are pressed together and towards the upper plate with a prescribed contact pressure, the spacing of the supporting segments from the upper pressure plate being set variably and independently from each other. A device for joining workpieces by welding with laser light, comprises at least one upper pressure plate of transparent material and a lower pressure plate with multiplicity supporting segments for the workpieces. The supporting segments are arranged side by side on the lower plate and are movable in a vertical direction by compressed air and can be set independently from each other.